

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2** Legislative update
Missouri libraries
receive automation
grants
- Foundation grants
for books
- 3** Missouri students
win awards in essay
contest
- 4** 2000 Build Block
Award nominees
- Missourians and
Census 2000
- New library
handbook
- 5** What is your
favorite reason to
read
- Choices for the 21st
- 6** Missouri library news
Personal Notes
- 8** Judges rule on
reading
- 11** "America's Library"
website debuts
- 12** Volunteering at all-
time high

Building cultural communities in Missouri libraries

Long before libraries became community access points to the World Wide Web, they were the gateway to the whole wide world for many communities. They remain places for real, as well as virtual, encounters. People come to libraries in steady and increasing numbers to meet authors, artists, and performers face-to-face. They come to hear poets and authors read from their works, to listen to live music, to explore the past through exhibitions, and imagine the future through artists' eyes. They come to learn about the world and build their own communities.

To reinforce the library's role as a free and open access point to cultural programming, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office have announced a major new program linking libraries, artists, and audiences. The two-year project, "LIVE at the Library 2000: Building Cultural Communities," is supported by a \$250,000 award from NEA and matching funds from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund. It has been designated as an Official Millennium Project by the White House Millennium Council.

LIVE at the Library 2000 will present artists at libraries across America, with projected participation by 500 libraries through 2001. Its goals are to:

- create opportunities for artists to present their work and engage with diverse communities nationwide.
- encourage local, state, regional, and national collaboration to support artists and future library programming.
- build awareness and enthusiasm for library cultural programming opportunities through national and local publicity for the initiative.
- strengthen the cultural life of communi-



ties by exploring artistic responses to major themes relating to community concerns and identity.

NEA and ALA invite proposals for

programs featuring literary, visual, and performing artists. While most artists will likely be drawn from local communities, the project maintains a roster of authors who represent artistic excellence and are interested in working with libraries in LIVE appearances.

Some of the artists who have agreed to participate in the program include Julia Alvarez, Sven Birkerts, Rosellen Brown, Chris Crutcher, Rita Dove, Gish Jen, Philip Lopate, Sharyn McCrumb, Faye Myenne Ng, Naomi Shihab Nye, and Quincy Troupe. Others are listed on ALA's Public Programs website (<http://ala.org/publicprograms/live.html>).

Libraries may choose from themes developed for the project or develop themes of their own. Themes should reflect the interests of the community as well as the work of the authors or artists involved in presenting programs.

Themes include: Losing Geography, Discovering Self; Body & Soul; Violence, A Bitter Slice of American Pie; Making Change; Playing Ball with Words: Writers, Artists, and Sports; It's All Relative: Families in Art and Literature; Other People's Stories: The Art of Biography; Open Roads: Fast Cars and American Dreams; and Fighting Words: Writings About Wartime.

For an application form, go to the website or call the ALA Public Programs Office at 312-280-5045. Two application deadlines are available in 2000; notification of awards is made 60 days after the deadlines.

newsline (ISSN 1088-680X) is published monthly by the Library Development Division of the Missouri State Library, P.O. Box 387, Jefferson City, MO 65102; telephone 800-325-0131 in Missouri or 573-751-2680; fax 573-751-3612.

Contents of **newsline** may be reprinted with reference given to the publication and its date of issue.

The Missouri State Library is a division of the Secretary of State's Office.

Rebecca McDowell Cook
Secretary of State

Sara Parker
State Librarian

Madeline Matson
Editor

Rob Davis
Director, Publications Division

Michael Douglas-Llyr
Graphic Designer



Check out **newsline online** (ISSN 1088-7237) at <http://www.sos.mo.gov/library/newsline/newsline.asp>

Legislative update

With more than 2,000 bills introduced, only 81 bills received final approval in the Second Regular Session of the 90th Missouri General Assembly, which concluded on May 12, 2000. Few bills relating to libraries or library operation passed by the conclusion of the session. Librarians and library trustees had been following the progress of several filtering bills in both the House and Senate; with one exception, these bills died in committee or did not reach final passage.



SB757, a child protection bill, passed but did not include language requiring filtering software on library computers.

SB721 requires the Missouri Assistive Technology Advisory Council to establish an assistive technology loan program and revises the Missouri Public Service Commission's program for telecommunications equipment for hearing- and speech-impaired persons. Definitions are added to expand the scope of the program to all telecommunications equipment, including voice and text.

The General Assembly also appropriated full funding for the Missouri Cultural Trust Fund and for the four partners: Missouri Humanities Council, Missouri State Library Networking Fund, historic preservation, and public broadcasting. The Cultural Trust Fund will receive \$5,194,060, and each partner will receive \$865,677 from the non-resident professional athlete and entertainers tax.

Missouri libraries receive automation grants

Secretary of State Bekki Cook has approved grant awards totaling \$115,246 to three libraries in the 11th round of public library automation grants. These grants are made possible through a special appropria-

tion from the Missouri General Assembly and approved by Governor Carnahan. Libraries receiving awards include:

- **Carnegie Public Library** (Albany)—retrospective conversion: \$11,396
- **Hannibal Free Public Library**—upgrade to a library automation system: \$80,175
- **Webb City Public Library**—new library automation system: \$23,675

Carnegie Public Library's grant brings automated library services to an underserved rural northern Missouri area. The grant to Hannibal Free Public Library facilitates migration from an outmoded platform to a state-of-the-art system. Webb City Public Library can now offer automated library services which conform to national standards.

Foundation grants available for library books

Lois Lenski, the 1946 Newbery medalist for *Strawberry Girl*, had a life-long concern that all children have access to good books. To help achieve this goal, she established the Lois Lenski Covey Foundation to provide grants to public and school libraries serving disadvantaged populations.

The Lois Lenski Covey Foundation has annually awarded grants to rural and urban public and school libraries and to agency libraries serving at-risk children. The grants have ranged from \$500 to \$5,000. Funds are earmarked for purchasing books for young people rather than administrative or operational use. Successful applicants have proposed purchases to update their collections generally or to expand their holdings in special areas. The foundation welcomes applications from libraries with real need and limited book budgets.

A short application form is available from The Lois Lenski Covey Foundation, Attn: Arthur F. Abelman, Moses & Singer, 1301 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019-6076. To qualify for year 2000 grants, application forms must be received no later than September 30, 2000.

Missouri students win awards in essay contest

First Lady Jean Carnahan hosted an awards ceremony at the Governor's Mansion on April 11 for the state winners of the Letters About Literature essay contest. The national essay contest is sponsored by the Missouri Center for the Book in cooperation with the Weekly Reader Corporation and the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Mrs. Carnahan is the honorary chairperson of the Missouri Center.

The annual essay contest invites students to write a letter to an author—living or dead—explaining how that author's work somehow changed the student's way of thinking about the world. The contest offers two competition levels: Level 1 for grades 4-7 and Level 2 for grades 8-12.

Maurianna Randazzo and Samuel Warren Grabill won the first-place state awards. Randazzo is a 7th-grade student at LaSalle Springs Middle School in Glencoe. She wrote a letter to S.E. Hinton about *The Outsiders*, a book popular with young adults since its publication in the late 1960s. Grabill is a 10th-grade student at Harrisonville High School. His letter to Ray Bradbury about the book *Fahrenheit 451* focused on courage and facing problems.

Second-place winners are Whitney Baragary, Laura Speed Elliott Middle School, Boonville, for Level I; and Keely D. White, North Nodaway R-VI High School, Hopkins, for Level 2.

Level I honorable mentions include Jill Hoxworth, Carr Lane VPA Middle School, St. Louis; Amy Landon, Laura Speed Elliott Middle School, Boonville; Will McCandless, Mary Institute Country Day School, St. Louis; and Rebecca Rollins, LaSalle Middle School, Glencoe.

Level 2 honorable mentions include Melissa Bolinger, California R-1 High School; Natalie Gerhart, West Jr. High School, Columbia; and Jordana Kafka, Parkway North High School, St. Louis.

Almost 20,000 students across the United States entered the 2000 contest. Missouri was third in the nation in the number of entries submitted.



First row: State Librarian Sara Parker, Whitney Baragary, First Lady Jean Carnahan, William McCandless; **second row:** Secretary of State Bekki Cook, Natalie Gerhart, Missouri Center for the Book President John Lowrance, third row: Maurianna Randazzo, Amy Landon, Jill Hoxworth, Melissa Bolinger; **fourth row:** Keely White, Rebecca Rollins, Sam Grabill



Press Freedom Survey

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/pfs2000/>

Curious about press freedom around the world? Find out whether a country's newspaper or other media is controlled by its government. A map on the main page depicts free, partly free, and not free media countries, and reports from individual countries provide additional information. Freedomhouse is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that has compiled reports evaluating levels of political rights and civil liberties since 1972.

The CyberLibrarian's Reststop

<http://www.angelfire.com/in/virtuallibrarian/>

This site offers tutorials and tools for Web searchers such as "Evaluating What You Find (Tips for Selecting Resources)"

BBC News

<http://www.news.bbc.co.uk/>

A great site for international news and events.

Roman Numeral Converter

<http://www.binary.net/dturley/js/roman/html>

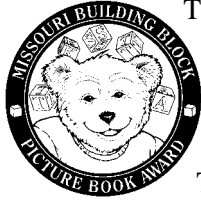
Enter the Roman numeral and press the button for "Convert to Arabic." Also converts Arabic to Roman numerals

Family literacy resources

If you're stuck for family literacy resources, call the doctors. The American Medical Association website has links to a range of sites offering free and low-cost material on issues such as single parenting, cultural competencies for emergency medical service, and child development. Also offered are connections to experts in the parenting field. Try it at <http://www.ama-assn.org/adohlth/gapslink/gapslnk2.htm> and scroll down the alphabetical list to "Parenting Resources."



2000 Building Block Award nominees



The Building Block Picture Book Award is sponsored by the Children's Services Round Table of the Missouri Library Association.

This award is designed for children in preschool through

kindergarten. Parents, older siblings, or others read books from the list to children, and the children vote for their favorite book.

Voting takes place at local public libraries, and the winner is announced in January.

The 2000 nominees are:

Asch, Frank. *Baby Bird's First Nest* (Harcourt)

Engel, Diana. *Circle Song* (Cavendish, Marshall)

Feiffer, Jules. *Bark George!* (Harper)

Hazen, Barbara. *That Toad Is Mine!* (Harper)

Kajikawa, Kimiko. *Sweet Dreams* (Holt)

Maynard, Bill. *Quiet, Wyatt!* (Putnam)

McGeorge, Constance. *Boomer's Big Surprise* (Chronicle)

Roth, Carol. *Little Bunny's Sleepless Night* (Chronicle)

Stevens, Janet. *My Big Dog* (Golden)

Walsh, Ellen Stoll. *For Pete's Sake* (Harcourt)

Missourians respond to Census 2000

The Census Bureau has posted Census 2000 mail-back response rates for states, counties, and towns at <http://www.census.gov> (select "Initial Response Rates"). Missouri's final mail-back response was 68 percent, compared to a nationwide average of 65 percent. State response rates ranged from a high of 74 percent in Iowa to a low of 54 percent in Alaska. Only 10 states had percentages higher than Missouri.

"We're very pleased," said Ryan Burson, Missouri's state demographer. "Considering the high number of seasonal housing units which initially show up as non-response, 68 percent indicates excellent support for Cen-

sus 2000 in Missouri." During the follow-up phase, census workers will identify seasonal and vacant units. Response rates are low in some areas because the Census Bureau has no way of knowing whether an address is vacant or seasonal at the time forms are mailed out.

Phase One of Census 2000 was the March/April mail-back operation. This was the time when people voluntarily mailed back the questionnaire that was delivered to their home or submitted answers by calling a toll-free telephone number or responding over the Internet. Phase Two is the May/June follow-up phase when census enumerators visit door-to-door at households where census forms were not returned.

Librarians can continue to support the census by explaining to people in their community that enumerators are out working and that they should be welcomed as they go about the work of obtaining a complete and accurate count. Enumerators can be identified by Census Bureau identification badges and by the black and white bags with red lettering they carry.

Library handbook offers facts and advice

The Whole Library Handbook 3 is a one-volume encyclopedia of library history, demographics, folklore, humor, current events, and popular wisdom. The volume is organized in easy-to-find general categories, including types of libraries, the profession, people, materials, special users, operations, technology, promotion, issues, and librarians. Readers will find fascinating trivia, as well as hilarious sections on "the most bizarre reference questions," "the best excuses for overdue books," and "job description of a Renaissance librarian." Also included are thoughtful essays and reprints of important journal articles by noted experts.

In its updated edition, *The Whole Library Handbook 3* includes a range of current facts and serious and not-so-serious discussions on subjects including:

- What are digital libraries and why you need to know
- 50 things you can do with a library card
- Quotable facts about library funding
- Nine rules for creating Web graphics
- Five criteria for Web evaluation
- Practical ways to serve special populations
- What you should do if you're served with a subpoena

The Whole Library Handbook 3, compiled by George M. Eberhart, is available for \$40.00 (ALA members, \$36.00) from ALA Editions, 800-545-2433, press 7.

What is your favorite reason to read?

Secretary of Education Richard Riley has estimated that 40 to 44 million adults in the United States function at the lowest level of literacy skill. While most are not "illiterate" in the conventional sense of the word, they lack the skills necessary to be effective in an increasingly complex and technological society.

For 38 years, Literacy Volunteers of America, Inc. (LVA) has been a champion in the fight to create a literate nation. The organization started in founder Ruth Colvin's basement in Syracuse, NY, in 1962, and has grown to more than 350 local programs in 40 states and the District of Columbia. At the national level, LVA develops opportunities to increase awareness and understanding of literacy and support for this critical work. To focus attention on the importance of literacy, LVA has embarked on an innovative online awareness campaign called *2000 Reasons America Should Read*.

LVA invites all Americans to join this campaign by submitting their favorite reason to read for posting to the LVA website. Reasons submitted through September 30, 2000 will be posted on an electronic bulletin board accessible from the site and entered into a lottery. Three names will be pulled at the organization's national conference in Kansas City on October 7, 2000, and the winners will be notified by mail.

To submit a reason, visit LVA's website at <http://www.literacyvolunteers.org> and click on the 2000 Reasons banner on the home-page.

Choices for the 21st century

The Choices for the 21st Century Education Project is seeking applications from libraries for public program mini-grants. The grants will provide support to libraries wishing to host a public policy discussion series.

The Choices series, "Defining Our Role in a Changing World," is a four-part, scholar-led discussion that brings general audiences to the public library or other community sites to deliberate, neighbor-to-neighbor, important issues of American identity and foreign policy.

A limited number of scholar/discussion leader stipends, in the amount of \$400 per program, is available for qualified Choices discussion programs to be held in 2000. These funds will be dispersed to qualified libraries on a first-come, first-served basis. Early application is encouraged.

Participating libraries will pay a \$200 materials fee and receive 25 reading guides, discussion leader's guide, organizer's guide, a poster, and other handouts and materials. The libraries' participants will complete the Choices Citizen's Ballot and have their concerns counted among the 2,500 to 3,000 Americans expected to participate in 2000. A report of the Citizen Ballot will be mailed to all participating libraries in January 2001. Organizational support will be provided by the Choices national office staff.

A copy of the 2000 Library Grant Application may be downloaded from the Choices website at <http://www.choices.edu/pp-grant00.html>. For a printed copy, and a sample copy of the 2000 series reader, contact Choices at 401-863-3155 (telephone), 401-863-1247 (fax), or choices@brown.edu.



Library salary survey now on the Web

St. Charles City-County Library's Salary Survey for 2000 is on the Web at http://www.win.org/library/library_office/reports/. The report, which has been compiled since 1978, tracks wages and salaries of shelvers, clerical, paraprofessionals, starting MLS staff, department heads, assistant directors and directors of libraries in the West North Central states. In addition, the survey tracks key budgetary indices such as spending for technology and cost per FTE unit. The report also may be downloaded in Excel format from the site.



newsline welcomes information for "Missouri Library News" and "Personal Notes" from librarians, library trustees, and others interested in the state's libraries. Send news about library events, projects, awards, and personnel changes to the editor. (See page 2 for contact information.)

Richland opens new library

More than 200 people attended dedication ceremonies for the Maxine Warren Library Building in Richland on April 29, 2000. Among the dignitaries present was U.S. Representative Ike Skelton, who delivered the keynote address and described the library as a "place for learning and a monument to education."

Construction of the new library was largely a volunteer effort. Ninety-two volunteers from Fort Leonard Wood worked on building the library as did local Richland residents and Friends of the Library from Waynesville. Local residents Maxine and Gordon Warren donated a 7,000-square-foot building to house the branch, and volunteers raised \$101,704 to complete the building.

The library is a branch of the newly formed Pulaski County Library system. In addition to 10 computers for public use and 23 more for the library system, the library will house a Missouri research room and a museum.



Beth Henry (left) and Shana Parson unveil the sign at the new Maxine Warren Library Building in Richland. Henry designed the Friends logo, and Parson designed the new library logo.

St. Louis area libraries inaugurate "Libraries Without Boundaries"

Library directors and other representatives from 11 St. Louis area library districts met on May 31 to sign reciprocal lending agreements enabling users of each library system to borrow materials from each of the others without special fees. The historic agreements, referred to as "Libraries Without Boundaries," became effective June 1, 2000.

Participating districts include St. Charles City-County Library, St. Louis County Library, St. Louis Public Library, and the eight member libraries of the Municipal Library Consortium, which are those of Brentwood, Ferguson, Kirkwood, Maplewood, Richmond Heights, Rock Hill, University City, and Valley Park.

"We have been working toward this one goal for at least 10 years," said Wicky Sleight, director of the Kirkwood Public Library and one of the prime movers behind the effort to complete the agreements. "This is intergovernmental cooperation at its finest, providing a great benefit for the taxpayers in all 11 districts."

As a result of these agreements, patrons can now make use of the library that is most convenient for them, whether it is in their own neighborhood or close to work, school, or a favorite shopping center. Users will have access to seven million items from more than 50 library locations throughout St. Louis City, St. Louis County, and St. Charles County.

"It's always been extremely difficult to explain the boundaries of our different library districts to citizens," commented Linda Ballard, director of the University City Public Library and head of the Municipal Library Consortium. "People want to join the libraries they prefer or that are most convenient to them. Breaking down the barriers to better library service is wonderful."

Residents of the participating library districts can take advantage of these extended privileges by providing identification with their name and address at the library of



Gwendolyn Brooks, Illinois poet laureate and Pulitzer Prize winner, chats with a fan at a program sponsored by St. Louis Public Library as part of its Signature Series. The April 30 program attracted several hundred people for a commentary and question-and-answer session. The author of more than 25 books, Brooks received the Pulitzer Prize for *Annie Allen* in 1950 and was the first black writer to win the prestigious award. In 1969, she was named poet laureate of Illinois, succeeding the late Carl Sandburg—a post she still holds today. She serves as writer-in-residence at Chicago State University.

their choice to receive a card. Borrowers need not have a card with their home library system to take advantage of the service, but need to obtain a separate card from each system they want to use and will be responsible for following that library's lending rules. Patrons may return borrowed materials at any participating library location.

Truman Library Institute exceeds fundraising goal

Larry Hackman, director of the Truman Library in Independence, reports that the Truman Library Institute has raised \$23.7 million—\$1.2 million more than the campaign goal set last year in July. Deferred gifts will bring in another \$1.6 million. Hackman said 85 percent of the private funding came from the Kansas City area. The mon-

ey will be used for expanding the library's permanent exhibits and creating a Classroom for Democracy.

The Classroom for Democracy, a \$22.5 million effort to renovate and reinvent the Truman Library, will provide interactive exhibitions and educational programs that demonstrate the value of strong, straightforward leadership. It will create world-class programs that use the rich resources of the library's archives, museum collections, exhibitions, and educational tools. Researchers and scholars will increase the public's understanding of world-shaping issues through global access to Truman materials.

Hackman made the campaign announcement at a recent fundraising event, "Wild About Harry," which featured political humorist Mark Russell. The event raised a net \$155,000 for public programs.

Video focuses on St. Louis blues musicians

"Hellbent and Blue" is a documentary film about blues music: its roots, its meaning, and its future.

The film explores the blues through the eyes of seven of St. Louis' most prominent and aged blues musicians. These men are of the final generation of authentic bluesmen, and the film gives voice to the struggle and the triumph of their lifetime with the blues.

Produced by James Mann and Matt Schneider, recent graduates of Washington University, the film features interviews with and performances by Tommy Bankhead, Big George Brock, James Crutchfield, Gabriel, Oliver Sain, Bennie Smith, and Henry Townsend.

The 30-minute videotape is available for \$19.95 (individual use) or \$29.95 for public performance. For more information or to place an order, call 314-378-7561 or mountcitypictures@yahoo.com.



More Library News



New website teaches historical research

DoHistory.org, a new National Endowment for the Humanities-funded website, was recently launched by the Harvard Film Study Center. The site, <http://www.dohistory.org/home.html>, is an interactive case study based on the research that went into the NEH-funded Pulitzer Prize-winning book and the film "A Midwife's Tale," which tells the story of the late 18th-century midwife Martha Ballard as recorded in her diary.

Site visitors are invited to explore the process of piecing together the life of an ordinary historical person, and in this way to learn basic research skills and techniques for interpreting surviving fragments of the past. The website provides a "History Toolkit" showing visitors how to start their own original research. It also includes thousands of downloadable pages from original documents in both original format and transcription: letters, maps, court records, medical texts, and a searchable copy of the entire 27-year diary of midwife Martha Ballard, from 1785 to 1812.



20th branch for St. Louis County Library

Planning for the 20th branch in the St. Louis County Library system progressed significantly with a donation of land by Sachs Properties, a local developer. Sachs has offered three acres of prime land in the Chesterfield Village area of west St. Louis County for the library project.

In deciding where to build a new branch, the library board used information from the Research and Statistics Division of the St. Louis County Department of Planning. With the new branch, the board hopes to alleviate the congestion that exists at the Daniel Boone Branch, which had a higher circulation than Headquarters in 1999. The demand on the Daniel Boone Branch is expected to increase as the county population shifts west.

Springfield library friends hold profitable booksale

The Friends of Springfield-Greene County Library sponsored their 16th annual booksale in late April and raised \$46,036 for the library. In 16 years, the Friends' annual booksales have benefited the library by almost \$400,000. The Friends also hold mini-booksales during the year and operate the Between Friends gift shop at the new Library Center. Books sold through the gift shop since November 1999 added \$5,000 to the booksale total.

Kirkwood Public Library participates in "Fast Forward" series

Kirkwood Public Library is one of 20 libraries nationwide to participate in the pilot "Fast Forward: Science, Technology and the Communications Revolution" viewing, reading and discussion series. The project is organized by National Video Resources (NVR) in partnership with the American Library Association's Public Programs Office and funded by the National Science Foundation and the Albert P. Sloan Foundation.

"Fast Forward" uses documentary films

to involve the public in a study of the impact of science and technology in the 20th century. The project encourages participants to examine the hopes and anxieties associated with revolutions in movement, communications, and knowledge.

The libraries will host programs in fall 2000 and spring 2001. The programs will take place over the course of six weeks and will be led by local university scholars with expertise in the history of science and technology. Discussion themes will cover subjects such as television, radio, movies, the telephone, the computer, and the Internet.

Through projects including "From Rosie to Roosevelt," NVR has worked to enhance and augment the use of media in libraries. Based in New York City, NVR was established by the Rockefeller Foundation in 1990 to increase public use and awareness of independent film and video. It became administratively independent of the foundation in 1992.

A new library for Fair Grove

The Fair Grove Branch of Springfield-Greene County Library opened in April to serve the town's 900 residents. Located in the new Fair Grove City Hall, the branch library houses about 3,500 books, videos, audio books, cassettes, and other high-interest materials in a 1,300-square-foot area. It is the library system's fourth branch.

In the first 10 days of operation—during the 56 hours the branch was open—1,059 items were checked out, about 105 per day. Branch coordinator Kathy Trompke said the community has been very supportive and proud of their new facility.

St. Louis Public Library reopens Walnut Park Branch

On May 7, 2000, neighborhood residents joined local dignitaries for a special grand reopening celebration at the Walnut Park Branch of St. Louis Public Library.

The renovated branch features many physical improvements that make the branch easier and more efficient to use, including a new entrance and improved park-

ing for better access, updated and expanded collections, a Neighborhood Computer Center (made possible in part by grant funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation) with state-of-the-art computers, a wide variety of educational and recreational software for public use, and free access to the Internet. Suggestions for some of these improvements came from area residents and Walnut Park patrons during a series of neighborhood focus groups.

Walnut Park is the latest in the library's series of capital improvement projects funded by a property tax increase approved by St. Louis voters in 1994. The plan calls for major renovations at every library location, including Central Library, over the next several years.

Missouri libraries participate in national eBook program

In an effort to introduce electronic books to a nationwide audience of readers, netLibrary will donate 150,000 eBooks to 100 public libraries in the United States. In Missouri, libraries receiving collections of eBooks include Kansas City Public Library, Springfield-Greene County Library, and Missouri River Regional Library in Jefferson City.

Participating libraries will receive collections of up to 1,500 eBooks from leading publishers. Those libraries effectively will extend their hours of operation for this collection to 24 hours a day and provide access to eBook resources for their patrons wherever they may be.

Libraries will have access to their eBooks for six months, after which they may choose to purchase all or a portion of the titles. In addition, they may choose other eBooks from the general netLibrary offerings, which now number nearly 11,000 titles.

Titles featured in the eBook collection include selections from ABC-CLIO reference handbooks, AMACOM books, Cliff Notes, Health Communications' Chicken Soup series, Harvard Business School Publishing, O'Reilly computer guides, Macmillan's The

Complete Idiot's Guides and SAMs computer guides, McGraw-Hill business and computer books, The Rosen Publishing Group's Coping and Careers series, and Scarecrow's Historical Dictionaries. Libraries will also have access to an extensive list of eBooks in the public domain, featuring classics in literature and history.

The netLibrary eBook Introduction Program is designed to enable public libraries to incorporate eBooks in their collections with minimal effort and expense. To receive an eBook collection, public libraries must agree to purchase and integrate MARC for the 1,500 titles into their online patron access catalog, participate in a training session, and display point-of-use materials in their library locations.

The introductory program is netLibrary's first initiative focusing exclusively on public libraries. netLibrary previously concentrated its institutional sales efforts on multi-member library consortia and academic libraries.

Two Missouri libraries host traveling exhibit

The Sikeston Public Library and the Carrollton Public Library will each host "Go Figure," an innovative traveling exhibit that uses children's books to teach beginning math concepts to children two to seven years old. The libraries are two of 75 libraries nationwide selected to participate in the tour, which will begin in September 2000 and end in December 2002.

The 700-square-foot exhibit is based on a larger interactive exhibit that opened at the Minnesota Children's Museum in January. It includes large-scale scenes from five children's books that illustrate math skills such as counting, measuring, sorting, and estimating. The books include *Arthur's Pet Business* by Marc Brown, *The Doorbell Rang* by Pat Hutchins, *The Quilt* by Ann Jones, *Frog and Toad Are Friends: A Lost Button* by Arnold Lobel, and *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, illustrated by James Marshall. Exhibit text is in English and

(continued on page 10)



Adult education classes show growth

During the last school year (1998-99), about 52,200 Missourians enrolled in local adult basic education classes—an increase of about 10 percent over five years ago. Reasons contributing to this growth include employers' need for higher levels of knowledge and skill in all types of occupations, the growing number of immigrants and refugees who do not speak English, and the number of prison inmates who are working on their high school equivalency (GED) certificates.

Last year, about 8,700 Missouri residents enrolled in "English as a Second Language" classes provided through adult basic education programs. This figure represents about 16 percent of the total adult basic education enrollment, and the number is rising steadily.

Beginning next January, Missouri inmates will be required to work toward their GED certificate as a condition of parole. Reflecting this new policy, prison-based education programs are already serving more students.

More Library News



Performance appraisal handbook

Effective Phrases for Performance Appraisals; A Guide to Successful Evaluations by James E. Neal, Jr. contains more than 2,000 phrases listed under 56 headings (creativity, initiative, productivity, etc.) that will help supervisors find appropriate language to evaluate their employees. As the author says, "In today's confrontational environment, the need for accurate and factually documented employee evaluations is greater than ever."

The 176-page spiral-bound handbook is available for \$10.95 plus \$2 s/h from Neal Publications, Inc., 127 West Indiana Ave., PO Box 451, Perrysburg, OH 43551.



Spanish. Part of the exhibit will include a parents' station with materials and information on fun and age-appropriate ways of helping children learn math in their daily lives.

Sikeston's children's librarian Ann Thompson and Carrollton's library director Angee Germann will attend a June workshop in St. Paul where they will learn how to coordinate and promote the exhibit. Dates for both Missouri exhibits are in 2000: in Carrollton, the dates are September 7 to October 10; in Sikeston, November 2 to December 21.

The exhibit was developed with a major grant from the National Science Foundation by the Minnesota Children's Museum and the American Library Association's Public Programs Office and Association for Library Service to Children.

Sikeston Public Library receives Between the Lions grant

A \$2,500 mini-grant from the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) will enable Sikeston Public Library to participate in the Between the Lions outreach campaign. The Sikeston library is one of 20 libraries in the country to participate in the campaign.

Between the Lions is a multi-media initiative geared for 4 to 7 year olds which began airing on PBS stations on April 3, 2000. The daily, half-hour series takes children and their families "between the lions" that stand on either side of the doors to an infinitely large, imaginary library where books come to life, prefixes have personalities, and vowels sing their own sounds.

The grant recipients will work with community partners to use the appeal of the television series to bring new audiences to the library; develop and present local programs to involve parents and caregivers in reading to and with their children; strive to reach non-traditional library users and disadvantaged children, and participate in project evaluation.

The grant money is part of a \$230,000

award from the WGBH Educational Foundation, ALSC's partner in this educational outreach collaboration.

McDonald County Library receives career resources grant

The McDonald County Library has been named the recipient of the Public Library Association's NTC/Contemporary Publishing Career Materials Resource Grant. The grant, sponsored by the NTC/Contemporary Publishing, provides \$500 cash and \$2,000 of materials to a public library proposing a project for the development of a career resources collection and program for a target audience either in the library or in the community.

The library will use the materials provided by the grant to build a career resources collection which will be placed as a deposit collection at the office of McDonald County Family Services and made available to those receiving assistance as well as to other library users. The cash will be used to establish an annual award to honor an outstanding McDonald County participant in the FUTURES program.

McDonald County Library will be recognized during the PLA President's Reception on July 10 during the American Library Association's annual conference.

First Book Sense Book of the Year Awards

The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver and *The Quiltmaker's Gift* by Jeff Brumbeau and Gail de Marcken (illustrator) won the first Book Sense Book of the Year Awards. Kingsolver won for adult trade titles, and Brumbeau and deMarcken won for children's titles.

The finalists in each category were selected by independent booksellers all across the country, who nominated titles they most enjoyed hand-selling to their customers throughout the year.

Having fun with history

"America's Library" website for kids and families debuts

"America's Library" (<http://www.americaslibrary.gov>) a new, easy-to-use and entertaining website designed especially for children and their families, opened on April 24 as a major bicentennial project of the Library of Congress. The site was created to provide an entertaining educational experience that draws on the unparalleled American historical collections of the Library.



Through the use of stories, richly embellished with photographs, maps, prints, manuscripts, and audio and video recordings from the Library's collections, "America's Library" invites users to learn about our past through extraordinary materials, many of which have never been seen by the public. Interactive elements such as a "Scavenger Hunt" and "Send a Postcard"

will encourage exploration of the site, and animated "teasers" on the main home page will delight users of all ages. Questions invite children to talk to their family and friends about what they have learned.

Bold graphics and bright colors will entice users to click on the following main home page links:

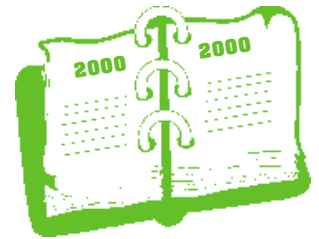
- **Meet Amazing Americans**—Do you know what Abraham Lincoln had in his pockets on the night he was assassinated? Or the name of the newspaper that Frederick Douglass started to promote freedom for all slaves? The answers are among the fascinating facts conveyed in this section about these and other amazing Americans such as George Washington, Buffalo Bill, Harriet Tubman, Houdini, and Teddy Roosevelt. (Answers: Lincoln was carrying eyeglasses, a handkerchief, nine newspaper clippings—all favorable to Lincoln, a lens polisher, and a \$5 Confederate note. Frederick Douglass founded *The North Star*, so named because slaves escaping at night often followed the North Star in the sky to freedom.)
- **Jump Back in Time**—Who was the first woman doctor in the United States? On what day did Thurgood Marshall become a Supreme Court Justice? Click on "Jump Back in Time" and visit any day in history. (Answers: Elizabeth Blackwell was America's first woman doctor; she graduated on October 19, 1849, with an M.D. from a medical college in New York—the only school that would accept her. On October 2, 1967, Marshall became the first African American Supreme Court justice.)
- **Explore the States**—Take a trip across the country without ever leaving your home. Do you know how Virginia got its name? Or why people from Oklahoma are sometimes called "Sooners"? (Answers: Virginia is named for Elizabeth I, the virgin queen of England. "Sooners" are thus named because in 1889, these people had already staked their claims before the land was officially opened for settlement.)
- **Join America at Play**—From America's pastime—baseball—to dancing, the nation at play is the focus. Everyone thinks of baseball as a uniquely American game, but do you know its origin? Is break-dancing a recent invention? (Answers: No one is exactly sure how baseball began, but it seems to have its roots in the English children's game called "rounders" or "four-old-cat" that was pictured in a British children's magazine in 1760. A film from 1898 shows an early "break-dancer" in New York City.)

The content of the website has been reviewed by historians in the Library of Congress and by James B. Gilbert, Distinguished University Professor of American History at the University of Maryland.

"America's Library" marks the first time in its history that the Library of Congress has

(continued on page 12)

Upcoming Events



July 2
National Literacy Day

July 6-13
American Library Association Annual Conference
Chicago

July 15-20
American Association of Law Libraries Annual Conference
Philadelphia

July 18-19
Missouri Census Data Center Annual Conference
Jefferson City

August 8-11
Library Skills Institute
Columbia

August 13-18
IFLA General Conference
Jerusalem

September 8
International Literacy Day

September 14
Secretary's Council on Library Development Meeting
(Location to be announced)

Senior poet laureate competition

Submissions are invited for the Senior Poet Laureate Poetry Competition for writers age 50 and over. Winners in nine categories (including haiku, sonnet, light verse, and love poem) along with the Best Overall Poem/Senior Poet Laureate Award, receive cash awards and publication in the Golden Words chapbook.

For complete guidelines and an entry form, send an SASE to: Senior Poet Y2K, PO Box 6003, Springfield, MO 65801. Entries must be received by August 1, 2000.



created a public service advertising campaign in partnership with the Advertising Council.

This campaign—"There's a Better Way to Have Fun with History...Log on. Play around. Learn something"—was created through the Advertising Council, with creative services donated by DDB Worldwide in Chicago. The spots have been distributed to 3,200 television stations and more than 6,000 radio stations nationwide. In addition to television and radio spots, an innovative Web banner featuring a pop-up film will be available for viewing and downloading through the Ad Council website at <http://www.adcouncil.org>.

Volunteering at all-time high

Independent Sector's 1999 study, *Giving and Volunteering in the United States*, reveals that volunteering has increased significantly, and the number of households giving remains high. The sixth in a series of biennial national surveys shows that 56% of adults volunteered a total of 19.9 billion hours—a 13.7% increase from the 1996 study. The percentage of households reporting contributions was up from 69% to more than 70%, with an average household gift of \$1,075.

Key findings include:

- The volunteer workforce represented the equivalent of more than 9 million full-time employees at a value of \$255 billion.

- A higher percentage of women (62%) than of men (49%) volunteered. Men who volunteered gave slightly more time than women: 3.6 hours per week as opposed to 3.4 hours for women.
- 43% of seniors aged 75 and over reported volunteering—an increase of 8 percentage points since 1995.
- Volunteering is up not only with the general population, but especially with people of color. Forty-seven percent of African-Americans and 46% of Hispanics volunteered.
- The number of households that contributed 3% or more of their household income rose since 1993—from 19% to 22% of contributing households.
- 81% of households gave a donation when asked.

The survey also revealed that when measured as a percentage of total household income, households at the lower end of the income scale were very generous. Contributing households earning under \$10,000 a year gave 5.2% of total household income, the highest of the income groups in the survey.

Overall, public attitudes about nonprofit organizations remain strong. Seventy-six percent agreed that nonprofit organizations generally played a major role in their communities. Sixty-eight percent of the respondents expressed a high level of confidence in human service organizations, and 62 percent believed that most charitable organizations were honest and ethical in their use of funds.

Missouri State Library
P.O. Box 387
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0387

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Jefferson City, MO
PERMIT NO. 10